

Program Summary
Department of Economic Security
Domestic Violence

Program Overview

The Division of Aging and Community Services, under the Department of Economic Security (DES), administers the Domestic Violence Prevention Program. The program's mission statement includes: (1) providing safety and services to victims of domestic violence and (2) improving the comprehensive Domestic Violence Program in Arizona. Most of the program's resources go to providing direct services to victims of domestic violence.

In order to provide safety and services to victims of domestic violence, program funds go to 29 contracted non-profit private entities that provide shelter, advocacy and legal services. Victims of domestic violence stay at shelters an average of 25 days. During their stay at a shelter, clients are helped with plans to find a safe living environment as well as legal assistance for their domestic violence issues. In FY 2004 individual domestic violence shelters statewide reported sheltering 9,616 clients and having to turn away 15,526 clients because shelter was unavailable at the time of their request. The reported turn-away rate of 15,526 may represent some duplication because each shelter reports their numbers independently from other shelters.

DES also participates on the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. This Commission works to expand coordinating services throughout the state. In order to address unmet domestic violence needs, DES helps provide development services, resource development and strategic planning for various state agencies and community groups.

The monies provided by DES represent about half of all of the total state and federal domestic violence funds, which totaled approximately \$17.3 million in FY 2003. Seven other state agencies also contribute to domestic violence services: the Supreme Court, Criminal Justice Commission, Department of Housing, Department of Health Services, Department of Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The combined state funding goes to help approximately 120 organizations provide domestic violence services. The individual organizations also seek funding from a variety of other public and private sources to fund the total costs of their operations.

Program Funding

Table 1 below shows a 46% funding growth of the program from FY 2006 over FY 2001. The program's funding consists of monies from the following sources: Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the State General Fund and the Domestic Violence Shelter Fund (DVSF). As noted by *Table 1*, all of the increase in domestic

Table 1
Domestic Violence Prevention
Funding History

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>FY 2001</u> | <u>FY 2005</u> | <u>FY 2006</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| TANF | \$3,000,000 | \$5,120,700 | \$6,620,700 |
| GF | 2,727,500 | 2,507,900 | 2,507,900 |
| DVSF | 1,700,000 | 1,700,000 | 1,700,000 |
| Total | \$7,427,500 | \$9,328,600 | \$10,828,600 |

violence prevention funding has come from TANF funds, which have increased by over 120% the last 5 years. The TANF funds also have filled in for an 8% reduction in state General Fund monies.

The DVSF, as set forth in A.R.S. § 36-3002, consists of a portion of monies from statutory filing and copy fees of the Superior Court. Other DVSF fund sources consist of voluntary contributions on tax returns, grants and private gifts. Monies in the fund do not revert to the state General Fund. At the end of FY 2005 the balance of the fund was \$1,160,000.

For the 3 years following FY 2001, domestic violence prevention spending has been several percentage points under its appropriated spending level, ranging from 4% to 11%.

Recent Programmatic Changes

In order to increase the number of victims of domestic violence receiving services, the budget for FY 2006 received a \$1.5 million increase in federal TANF Block Grant appropriations to provide funding for 75 additional shelter beds. These beds will serve 1,100 clients annually.

Performance Measures

All but one of the current performance measures focus on counting the number of clients served by the various services, which is not necessarily a measure of efficiency. The remaining performance measure does track efficiency by recording the average cost to operate an emergency shelter containing 21 beds.

To help assess the quality of services being provided to victims of domestic violence, DES could institute a client satisfaction survey. The results of the surveys could be used to guide and improve new and existing services. It may not be possible to survey all clients, but even a sample of clients could provide useful feedback and indications regarding the services provided.

The FY 2006 actual numbers will likely come in much higher than the original estimates because of the additional 75 shelter beds provided. *(Please see Table 2 for more detail.)*

| Table 2 | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Domestic Violence Prevention Performance Measures | | |
| <u>Performance Measure</u> | <u>FY 2004 Actual</u> | <u>FY 2006 Estimate</u> |
| Number of women and children sheltered in emergency shelters | 9,616 | 10,000 |
| Number of unduplicated women and children sheltered in transitional housing | 429 | 525 |
| Number of victims assisted in self-help clinics | 3,594 | 3,200 |
| Number of victims provided with civil legal assistance | 5,711 | 4,000 |
| Number of victims provided with lay legal advocacy | 1,720 | 2,000 |
| Average cost to operate an emergency shelter - annualized and based on 21 beds | 562,284 | 600,000 |